



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske August 2010 Vol.29. Number 8

The **Port Huron Chess Club** meets Thursdays, except holidays, from 6:30-10:00 PM, at Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour Street, (NE corner of Garfield Street and Gratiot Ave...1 mile North of the Blue Water Bridge) Port Huron, Michigan. Everyone is welcome. All equipment provided. Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.yolasite.com/>

Aging and Chess – will your prowess necessarily decrease?

Because the majority of players at the PHCC are, suffice it to say, in the senior category, I thought it might be interesting to explore an aspect of the game that is forever lurking in the dark recesses of the minds of most of them. Naturally, this “gorilla in the room” has enjoyed increasing speculation as the population ages. The question: “Is it inevitable that we lose our chess ability as we age?”, has certainly played itself out in many other sports, where the success in competition is inversely proportional to the chronological ages of the contestants. In the arena of physical sports such as, baseball, tennis, golf, hockey, basketball, football, soccer, lacrosse, swimming, track and field, etc...athletes these days begin and compete at higher levels at younger ages than ever before, yet either lose their desire to compete, or become physically unable to perform over a shorter time span. The average age of retirement for even the most gifted of these athletes appears to take hold in the late 30’s. The question now becomes: Does the same hold true with mental sports – Bridge, Poker, Chess, Checkers, Trivia contests, as in the physical arena? Is there validity to the ancient adage, that age and experience ultimately triumph over the vigor and enthusiasm of youth? While it is true that the number of masters and grandmasters have significantly increased, many have surpassed Bobby Fischer’s mark as the youngest grandmaster ever in the 1960’s, they tend to mimic the pattern established in other sports as well.

Just as mental acuity in physical sport is a requisite for enhanced performance, in chess especially, being in good physical condition has been well established as a definite bonus when it comes to maintaining consistently high performance levels. From casual to championship play, even a minor sniffle can cause chaos in the stamina department, leading to a myriad of calculation and strategic lapses; but will aging alone account for the irrevocable decline in reasoning, vision, calculation, and memory for the average chess aficionado?

While leafing through a copy of Larry Evan’s 1970 book, **Chess Catechism** – I came upon a chapter on aging. Evan’s cites research studies from **The Journal of the Royal Statistical Society**, Vol. 126 (1963) summarizing the statistical analysis by Norman Draper of the tournament games of Tarrasch, Lasker, Nimzovich, Tartakower, Reti, Capablanca, and Alekhine. Draper concluded that there are really three basic

reasons (Evans added the fourth) that account for the decline in the results of his subjects as they advanced in age:

1. As a player grows older, his playing peculiarities become known, and thus he finds it more difficult to defeat others of equal or lesser strength;
2. Increasing age brings increasing susceptibility to fatigue. This causes a player to reject risky moves because of the possibility of calculation error, and to agree to draws more frequently;
3. Professional chess has always been a precarious occupation, and hence, many players opt for employment that brings economic and emotional security which competes with the time they might devote to intensive study and practice.
4. Becoming embittered is one of the greatest hazards facing the aging chess master, due to the lack of support and recognition that the game offers to its practitioners.

While these conclusions may be valid with respect to chess professionals, how about the rest of us mere mortals? Ironically, the very next day, while perusing my latest issue of ***Chess Life***, I discovered that the USCF offers a book by Andres D. Hortillosa entitled: ***Improve Your Chess at Any Age*** in which the author postulates that a “chess player can improve at any age as long as he or she is inspired with the right attitude and enabled with the right thinking processes.”

After myriad of “spirit enhanced” philosophical discussions held in numerous post-club meetings at “Cheap Charlie’s”, a local watering-hole, we seniors have developed our own set of conclusions:

1. With the increase in age, the “fire in belly” seems to dissipate for most of us. Whether it be the onset of retirement, the re-evaluation of life’s priorities, the realization/self-actualization that we will never become grandmasters or even masters, or “waning of the will”, since the passion to excel becomes directly proportional to the energy that must be expended to attain it.
2. Advances in technology, theory, technique expand beyond our abilities or desires to acquire them. Study is difficult, time consuming, but essential work in any effort to maintain or improve skills.
3. While aging brings, for the most part, the benefits of financial security, increased time, and fewer distractions, they are often offset by physical and mental deterioration , both subtle and severe.
4. While not trying to sound the alarm, nor panic the masses of the “over the hill” gang of chess players by suggesting that early Alzheimer’s will be the inevitable outcome if you don’t immediately begin a vigorous exercise regimen coupled with a prodigious study schedule, we collectively agreed, in our infinite, and non-scientific wisdom, that aging brings a new perspective on chess. As we mature, the values, virtues, and vitality that the “Royal Game” imparts upon its devotees is a depth of camaraderie, civility and commitment that many times goes undetected and unappreciated in youth.
5. Finally, maturity brings with it the most satisfying gift of all: A lifelong affection for the game!

Trying our hand at Bughouse

Since the end of last year, the PHCC has attempted to offer a number of monthly events, in hopes of attracting players to the club. One of these *fetes* was a Bughouse tournament [See the May and June 2010 issues of *Chess Chatter* for the rules.] that replaced the July team event originally scheduled for each Thursday in July. Many players have not enjoyed the opportunity to play a bughouse team event, so **Phil Willard, Mark Fitchett; Bill Wingrove, Alan Gregg** and I gave it a trial run last Thursday. We continually shifted partners to get a true flavor of how team pairings impacted the results, and discovered that it had less of a bearing on the outcome than we suspected, whereas the 5 minute time control emerged as the great equalizer. Whether it was our sheer ineptness, or the lack of experience that generally balanced the competition's outcomes was difficult to say, but we all had an enjoyable evening sacrificing bishops and even queens. At one time, I had 4 bishops all on the same color, and Bill had three, with a veritable monopoly on the white squares! It was a novel way to spend a Thursday evening, and we all seemed to have a rather raucous, harried, but entertaining journey to say the least. Having Mark return proved delightful, even though he claimed his palms kept sweating from the "pressure"! The only real threat from playing Bughouse is that when you return to regular chess, you have to break the habit of asking for - knights, pawns and rooks to improve your position, and did come in handy from time to time to have another queen up your sleeve!!!!

PHCC Rating List

The following list represents a realignment and update after the Club Championships. It identifies only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, to construct the initial list. Members that had no USCF ratings were given a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members who had USCF ratings. From this point forward, club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

PHCC Rating List as of 7/11/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1939
Rutkofske, Lon	1905
Morabito, Matt	1760
Petty, Michael	1740
Broyles, Tom	1736
Fiedler, Robert	1725
Wingrove, Bill	1707
Duncan, Bob	1595
Dean, Joel	1560
Berthen, Dale	1537
Scholfield, Chris	1503
Willard, Mark	1500
Willard, Phil	1486
Chan, Jaime	1452
Boucher, Dave	1322
Jachcinski, Michael	1016
Tuttle, Aaron	498

USCF Ratings as of 711/10

Name	Rating
Gregg, Alan	2000
Rutkofske, Lon	1897
Fiedler, Robert	1769
Broyles, Tom	1737
Morabito, Matt	1725
Petty, Michael	1703
Wingrove, Bill	1694
Willard, Phil	1551
Duncan, Bob	1497
Chan, Jaime	1447
Trombley, Cody	1278
Boucher, Dave	1277
Mireau, Nathan	1050
Jachcinski, Michael	987

Members' Games

Please send me what you consider your best games, annotated or not, so that I might be able to showcase them. The following games represent contests that have been available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally, if you wish. Majority of analysis done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated.

The following games are from the 2010 Canadian Open Championships. Alan Gregg is sending his games in this year's competition as he plays. Annotated games will appear in later issues of **Chess Chatter**. Because we do have some "non-senior" members, I thought it might be interesting to "dust off" some games that I played while I was in high school. I played these games against fellow classmates and as second board for the St. Vincent Ferrer High School (Vallejo, CA) chess team. We won the league (6 schools) championships in 1963 and 1964. I hope it might encourage younger players to play more competitively and not to become discouraged, if they fail to have success early. Certainly readers will find many, many errors as they make their way through these games keeping in mind that I was a mere 17 when they were played. This also seems a fitting way to cap an issue where chronology serves as a unifying theme.

Gregg,Alan (2000) - Maheux,Pierre (1879) [B76] [Sicilian Dragon]

Canadian Open (1), 10.07.2010

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 d6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.f3 Bd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Kb1 a6 11.g4 b5 12.h4 Ne5 13.h5 Rc8 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.Bh6 Qe8 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Nd5 Qf7 18.Nxf6 exf6 19.b3 Rc7 20.c3 Rfc8 21.Rc1 b4 22.c4 a5 23.Be2 Rh8 24.Nc2 Qe6 25.Rcd1 Nf7 26.Qd5 Rc5 27.Qxe6 Bxe6 28.Ne1 g5 29.Nc2 Rd8 30.Rd2 h6 31.Kb2 Kf8 32.Bd1 Kg7 33.Ne3 Ne5 34.Be2 Nf7 35.Rhd1 Kf8 36.Nc2 Ke7 37.Ne1 Ne5 38.Nd3 Nxd3+ 39.Bxd3 Bf7 40.Rh1 Rh8 41.Rdh2 h5 42.gxh5 Ke6 43.h6 Ke5 44.h7 Kd4 45.Bc2 Ke3 46.Rh6 1-0

Zaczek,Jonathon (2171) - Gregg,Alan (2000) [C98] [Ruy Lopez]

Canadian Open (2), 11.07.2010

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.d5 Nd8 14.Nf1 Ne8 15.a4 Rb8 16.Ng3 g6 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nh2 Ng7 19.Rf1 f6 [19...f5] 20.f4 Nf7 21.f5 g5 [21...gxf5; 21...Bd7]

22.h4 h6 23.Nh5 Ne8 24.hxg5 hxg5 25.Rf3 Nh6 26.Rh3 Rf7 27.Nxf6+ Rxf6 28.Bxg5
Nf7 29.Be3 Bf8 30.Qh5 Bg7 31.Ng4 Kf8 32.Nxf6 Bxf6 33.Qg6 Qe7 34.g4 Bg5 35.Bxg5
Qxg5 36.Rh8+ Ke7 37.Ra7+ Kd8 38.Rxe8+ Kxe8 39.Qxf7+ 1-0

Gregg,Alan (2000) - Yoos,Jack (2361) [B25] [Sicilian Dragon]

Canadian Open (3), 12.07.2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Rb8 5.Nge2 Bg7 6.0-0 b5 7.d3 d6 8.h3 e6 9.Kh2
Nge7 10.Ng1 0-0 11.f4 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Nf3 Qd7 14.Ne2 e5 15.c3 b4 16.d4
[...c4?]bxc3 17.bxc3 cxd4 18.cxd4 e4 19.Nfg1 Ba6 20.Re1 Bd3 21.Be3 Nd5 22.Qd2
Nxe3 23.Qxe3 Nb4 24.Rec1 Nc2 25.Rxc2 Bxc2 26.Rc1 Bd3 27.Rc3 Rb2 28.Nc1 Bf1
29.Nge2 Bxg2 30.Kxg2 Qa4 31.Ra3 Qd1 0-1

Robert Tompkins - Lonnie Rutkofske [Petroff's Defense]

Casual Game 12.9.1962 SVFHS

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxf3 5.Bxf3 exd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qa4 Be7 8.e5 d5
9.Be3 Qd7 10.Qf4 d4 11.Bd2 h6 12.0-0 Bg5 13.Qe4 0-0-0 14.Bxg5 hxg5 15.Re1 f5
16.Qd3 Nb4 17.Qb3 g4 18.Qxb4 gxf3 19.e6 Qd5 20.e7 Re8 21.Nc3 Qf7 22.Nb5 Nxe7
23.Nxa7+ Kb8 24.Nc6+ Nxc6 25.Qb5 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 Na7 27.Qc5 Re8 0-1

Robert Tompkins - Lonnie Rutkofske [Ruy Lopez]

Casual Game Fall 1963 SVFHS

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Bb7 6.0-0 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.Re1
exd4 10.cxd4 Nce7 11.Nc3 Ng6 12.Bg5 Nf6 13.h4 0-0 14.h5 Nf4 15.Bxf4 Nxe5 16.Bg5
Qd7 17.Nh4 Nf6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nd5 Kg7 20.Nxb6 1-0

John Martin - Lonnie Rutkofske [Petroff's Defense]

Casual Game Fall 1963 SVFHS

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 b6 4.d4 Nd7 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Nc3
Nf6 9.Bg5 Bd6 10.Bxf6+ gxf6 11.Rd1 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Bxf7 Bxc2 14.Rd2 Ke7 15.Bd5
Raf8 16.Rxc2 Bc5 17.0-0 Kd6 18.Rd1 Bd4 19.Be4 Kc5 20.Nd5+ Kd6 21.Rdd2 Rf7
22.Ne3 c5 23.Nf5+ Ke6 24.Nxd4+ exd4 25.Rc4 Ke5 26.Re2 Rf4 27.f3 Rc8 28.Rcc2 c4
29.Bb7+ Kf6 30.Bxc8 d3 31.Re6+ Kg5 32.Rc1 h6 33.Bd7 Rd4 34.Re5+ 1-0

Bernie Burke - Lonnie Rutkofske [Ruy Lopez]

Casual Game Fall 1963 SVFHS

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5 5.0-0 Nf6 6.b3 b5 7.Bxb5 axb5 8.Nc3 b4
9.Nd5 Nxe4 10.Bb2 d6 11.Qe2 Bf5 12.Qb5 Bd7 13.Qc4 0-0 14.Qxe4 f5 15.Qc4 Be6
16.Bc1 Na5 17.Qh4 Qxh4 18.Nxh4 Bxd5 19.c4 Bd4 20.cxd5 Bxa1 21.d3 Bd4 22.Nf3
Bb6 23.Bd2 e4 24.dxe4 fxe4 25.Ng5 e3 26.Bxe3 Bxe3 27.fxe3 Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Rf8+
29.Nf3 c6 30.dxc6 Nxc6 31.Ke2 Rb8 32.Kd3 Kf7 33.Ng5+ Kg6 34.h4 h6 35.Nf3 Kf5
36.Nd4+ Nxd4 37.Kxd4 Re8 38.Kc4 Re4+ 0-1

Lonnie Rutkofske - David Garthe [Giuoco-Piano]

Casual Game 18.11.1963 SVFHS

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nh6 4.d3 d6 5.h3 Be6 6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.Ng5 Qd7 8.Qh5+ g6
9.Qh4 0-0-0 10.Nc3 d5 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qxh6 dxe4 13.Nf7 Bf8 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qg5
Bd6 16.Nxe4 Rhf8 17.Nf6 Qe7 18.Ne4 Kb8 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Qh6 Rf5 21.Qxh7 Rdf8
22.Bh6 Rh5 23.Qg7 Nd7 24.Qxg6 Rxh6 25.Qxh6 b6 26.Rae1 Rf6 27.Qg5 e5 28.Qg8+
Kb7 29.Qc4 Qf8 30.Qd5+ Kc8 31.Qa8+ Nb8 32.Qxa7 Qh8 33.Qa4 Rg6 34.g4 Qxh3
35.Qe8+ Kb7 36.Qxg6 Nc6 37.Qe4 Kb8 38.Qxc6 Qxg4+ 39.Qg2 1-0

Rutkofske,Lonnie - Phelps [Ruy Lopez]

SV vs Vallejo HS 13.03.1964

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.0-0 a6 5.Ba4 d6 6.c3 Bd7 7.h3 Ng6 8.d3 Be7 9.Be3 Nh4 10.Nbd2 h6 11.Nxh4 Bxh4 12.Bb3 Qf6 13.Nf3 Ne7 14.Nxh4 Qxh4 15.Qf3 0-0 16.Qg3 Qf6 17.Bd1 c6 18.Qf3 Qg6 19.Qh5 Qe6 20.Bg4 f5 21.exf5 Nxf5 22.d4 Be8 23.Bxf5 Rxf5 24.Qg4 Bh5 25.Qe4 Raf8 26.g4 Qg6 27.Kh1 Rf3 28.Qxg6 Bxg6 29.Kg2 Be4 30.Kh2 Bd3 31.Rfd1 e4 32.Rd2 b6 33.Rc1 a5 34.Kg2 d5 35.a3 Rb8 36.Rxd3 Rxe3 37.Rxe3 Rc8 38.f4 exf3+ 39.Rxf3 1-0

Caldwell - Lonnie Rutkofske [French Defense]

SVFHS V Napa HS April 1964

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Bd7 5.f4 Be7 6.Nf3 f6 7.a3 Nh6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Nb3 Ba4 10.Nfd2 c4 11.exf6 Bxf6 12.h4 cxb3 13.Nxb3 Bxh4+ 14.Kd2 Rxf4 15.Kd3 Bb5+ 16.Kc2 Rf2+ 17.Kb1 Ba4 18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Qg4+ Qg5 20.Qxe6+ Kg7 21.Ka2 Bd7 22.Qe5+ Qxe5 23.dxe5 Bg3 24.Nc5 b6 25.Nxd7 Nxd7 26.Rd1 Nxe5 27.Rxd5 Rc8 28.Rh3 Bf4 29.g3 Rxc3 30.gxf4 Rcc2 31.a4 Nc6 32.Rg3+ Kf6 33.Rf5+ Ke7 34.Re3+ Kd6 35.Rf6+ Kc5 36.Rf5+ Kd4 37.Rd3+ Ke4 38.Rb5 Rxf1 39.Rd7 Nd4 40.Rb4 Rd1 41.f5 Ke5 42.Re7+ Kxf5 43.Rxh7 Nc6 44.Rb5+ Kg6 0-1

Lonnie Rutkofske - Wright [Ruy Lopez]

SVFHS Vs Hogan 10.04.64

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Nf6 7.d4 exd4 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.c3 Ne5 11.Qe2 d3 12.Bxd3 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Nh5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Qd5 Nf4 16.Qxb7 Nd3 17.Re2 Rfe8 18.Qa6 Nf4 19.Re3 Qh4 20.Qa4 Qg5 21.Rg3 Qh5 22.Rg4 d5 23.Qb5 Rxe4 24.Nd2 Ne2+ 25.Kf1 Rxd4 26.hxg4 Qh1+ 27.Kxe2 Qxa1 28.Qxd5 Qxb2 29.Qxa8+ 1-0

Rutkofske, Lonnie - Phelps [Ruy Lopez]

SV vs Vallejo HS 23.04.1964

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.d4 a6 5.Ba4 f6 6.d5 Na5 7.b4 Nc4 8.Bb3 Nb6 9.Be3 c6 10.d6 Ng6 11.Nc3 Bxd6 12.Qxd6 Ne7 13.Nh4 g5 14.Qxf6 Rf8 15.Qxg5 d6 16.Qh5+ Kd7 17.Bg5 Qe8 18.Qxe8+ Rxe8 19.Rd1 Ng6 20.Nf5 Kc7 21.Nxd6 Rf8 22.Bf6 Nd7 23.Bg7 Rf4 24.Ne2 Rg4 25.h3 Rxd2 26.Rg1 Rxd1+ 27.Nxd1 Nf4 28.Nf7 Ng2+ 29.Kf1 Nf4 30.Nxe5 Nxe5 31.Bxe5+ Kb6 32.Bxf4 Bd7 33.Rxd7 Rf8 34.Bc7+ Ka7 35.Bf7 h5 36.e5 1-0

Calendar of Coming Events:

Registration for all events begins at 6:30 PM or via email, first round begins at 7:00 PM.

August 5th G/45 Pairs Championship – EF: \$5.00 per 2 man team *(See page 10)

Sept. 9th G/5 Blitz PHCC Speed Champs – Double Round Robin – EF: A: \$2.00, Under19:\$1.00

Possible Team Challenge Event: Alan Gregg has proposed that the PHCC field a 5 man team and challenge some local clubs to a match...please email me with your thoughts - Lon

Blasts from the Past

The following photos were taken during the 4th Blue Water International Chess Tournament, hosted at the Birchwood Mall on October 12, 1996.



Front L-R: Malcom Carr vs Mark Ortiz and Rear L-R: Bill Wingrove vs Dave Mitro



Front L-R: Eric Roome vs Noel Bedy ; Rear L-R: Hugo Ortiz vs Steve Mitro



Standing: Lon Rutkofske TD, seated Front R- Ron Demming, Rear L- Fred Goodell, Rear R- Nick Castillo, and unidentified player



Front L-R: Ron Demming vs Mike Sullivan and Rear L-R: Dave Mitro vs Tom Broyles



Standing: Lon Rutkofske; L to R Table 1- unidentified junior, Nick Castillo; Table 2- Andy Bruzewicz vs Tom Broyles; Ron Demming vs Mike Sullivan; Table 3- Hugo Ortiz vs Steve Mitro; Eric Roome vs Noel Bedy

Dues News The Port Huron Chess Club will begin to collect dues for the coming year. While dues are not required for anyone interested in playing at the club, they are required for those competing in tournament play. Annual Dues are \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for those under 19. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department.